



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

8 November 2023

Adam Ward

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Tēnā koe Adam Ward

On 3 October 2023, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *Please could you provide counts of the number of people claiming Accommodation Supplement by Statistical Area 2 using 2023 boundaries for the month of March 2023.*

I appreciate that in order to preserve the privacy of individuals all client counts will be random rounded to base three and all counts between 1 and 6 inclusive will be suppressed.

Please include SA2 2023 codes in the output

On 1 November 2023, the Ministry notified you that while we had decided to grant your request, more time was required to prepare the information for release.

The Accommodation Supplement (AS), which replaced the Accommodation Benefit from 1 July 1993, is a non-taxable payment to assist people with limited income and limited cash assets to meet their accommodation costs. Assistance is available to help pay rent, board, or costs of home ownership. A person does not have to be receiving a benefit to be assessed to qualify for AS. It is calculated using a formula that considers geographical location, family size, accommodation costs, income, and tenure type (renting, boarding or home ownership).

You can find more information about the AS at the following link: www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/accommodation-supplement.html.

Please find enclosed in the **Appendix, Table One** which shows the count of clients in receipt of Accommodation Supplement as at the end of March 2023, broken down by 2017 area unit classifications.

The following link provides a list of Statistical Area 2 areas, which you may find helpful: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/deskfile/extra-help-information/accommodation-supplement-tables/definitions-of-areas.html#Area23.

The locations listed are related specifically to the names of the Statistical Area Units 2017, as defined by Statistics New Zealand. They are not the equivalent to postal address suburbs, towns, or cities, despite occasionally sharing similar names.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work, and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding Accommodation Supplement, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui

Bridget Saunders

Bridget Saunders
Group General Manager
Issues Resolution